

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND
TRIBAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ADMINISTRATORS MEETING**

SUMMARY

**February 8, 2011
744 P Street, OB9-Room 205
Sacramento, CA
9:00 pm – 12:00 pm**

This document summarizes the key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators (TTA) and leaders and CDSS representatives on February 8, 2011.

A summary of the last TTA meeting on October 12, 2010 was reviewed and approved as written.

The Transition to the Brown Administration and the Governor's Budget Proposals

Deputy Director Metsker announced the appointment of Diana Dooley as Agency Secretary and David Maxwell-Jolly as Undersecretary for the Health and Human Services Agency. Governor Brown's budget proposes 50 percent in cuts and 50 percent in generated revenue and taxes to begin to get control of the projected \$25 billion deficit in the next 18 months. A 48 month time limit and a 13 percent cut in CalWORKs grants are proposed.

The grant cuts would take effect June 1, 2011. Although no cuts to Tribal TANF funding have been proposed, there is a potential for increased caseload from CalWORKs transfers.

**Access to Recovery – Overview of Recovery Program Services by California
American Indians Recovery Services (CAIRS)**

Amanda Nugent, Project Director of the California Rural Indian Health Board presented an overview of this peer-based system. Over a four year period, \$13 million in funding for recovery services has been provided from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (a Federal agency). There will be a link on the Tribal TANF website to CAIRS.

Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) Access/MEDSLITE Opportunity

Manuel Urbina and Lauren Ortega of the Department of Health Care Services gave a presentation on MEDS and MEDSLITE. MEDSLITE is a web-based program which provides a smaller set of client data. CDSS provided the list of MEDSLITE data and indicated the fields that would provide information regarding possible duplicate aid.

A staggered implementation of MEDSLITE could allow the Tribal TANF programs (TTPs), ready to participate, access to MEDSLITE. Other TTPs could join at a later date. Tribal TANF Programs would have to agree on the fields necessary for duplicate aid prevention. Other fields could be considered at a later date based on justifications by the TTPs and approvals by CDSS and DHCS. An MOU between CDSS and DHCS

to define the services and safeguards would be needed. Existing MOUs between the Tribal TANF Programs and CDSS would require an addendum regarding confidentiality and security safeguards. Implementation of MEDSLITE access for TTPs could occur in 2011. The power point presentation will be available on the Tribal TANF website. Progress on selection of fields and justification will be discussed at the next Tribal TANF Administrators meeting.

Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project (WDTIP) access by Tribal TANF programs continues to be an issue and will be studied by CDSS for possibilities to discuss at the next Tribal TANF Administrators meeting.

County Welfare Directors Association of California

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Deputy Executive Director discussed:

- potential budget cuts to county welfare services; the contentious nature likely of proposed federal changes in TANF Reauthorization and the effect on California.
- subsidized employment in 40 counties from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars expired in October 2010; public-private partnerships provided 45,000 jobs, with 17-50 percent becoming permanent placements.
- on-line application for assistance is available, and by April of 2011 inter-county transfers (e/ICT) of recipient case files will be automated.

CDSS is working with CWDA to facilitate improved communications between counties and the TTPs. Anastasia Dodson is available for further information.

County Welfare Fraud Investigators Association Conference Report

Lisa Weiler, Scotts Valley, reported out on the conference with positive comments regarding a meeting with Ralph Alvarado, President of the County Welfare Fraud Investigators Association. Some TTPs are still experiencing difficulty in transactions with county welfare workers who may not be aware of Tribal TANF programs and services.

National Eligibility Workers California Chapter Conference

Shonta Chaloux reported on the conference and the workshops. The Tribal TANF workshop was well attended and well received. There are delays of county verifications to TTPs on the part of county workers, primarily due to lack of awareness and understanding that TTPs provide the same or more extensive services than the county.

New Business

Time clock inaccuracies due to automation consortia conversion were reported. The issue has been carried over for further study by CDSS and will be discussed at the next Tribal TANF Administrators meeting.

Next Tribal TANF Administrators Meeting:

Remaining 2011 meetings:

~~June 7, 2011~~ 9 am – 12 noon; 4/1/11 Update: meeting rescheduled to June 21

October 11, 2011 9 am – 12 noon

ATTACHMENTS

Sign-in Sheet